

## Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: MORNING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, AUGUST 11

NO. 31

WIRE SERVICES

REUTERS -- ROY GUTMAN FROM DAMASCUS

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE LEFT HERE FOR ALEXANDRIA TO SEE  
SADAT AND BRIEF HIM ON THE OUTCOME OF HIS TALKS WITH  
ISRAELI OFFICIALS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- EARLIER VANCE SAW HUSSEIN AND ASSAD, BRIEFED THEM.

-- ON PLANE, US OFFICIALS DENIED REPORT EILTS HAD MET PLO  
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OFFICIAL. HABIB SAID "THAT STORY IS WRONG, PARAGRAPH BY  
PARAGRAPH."

-- ATHERTON FLEW FROM AMMAN TO SAUDI ARABIA TO BRIEF SAUDI  
OFFICIALS.

-- NEXT STEP IN MIDEAST PROCESS IS MEETINGS IN NY.

AP -- NO BYLINE FROM DAMASCUS

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE, CONCLUDING HIS LATEST MIDEAST PEACE MISSION, ARRIVED HERE FROM JORDAN TODAY ON SECOND LEG OF A FAST-PACED, ONE-DAY SWING THROUGH ARAB CAPITALS TO BRIEF OFFICIALS ON HIS TALKS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ATHERTON GOING TO SAUDI ARABIA TO BRIEF OFFICIALS THERE.

-- OFFICIAL ON VANCE PLANE DENIED REPORT EILTS HAD MET WITH PLO OFFICIAL. "THERE HAVE BEEN NO MEETINGS, AT NO PLACE, AT NO TIME," THE OFFICIAL SAID.

-- NEXT STEP IN MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS IS MEETINGS AT NY.

UPI -- JIM ANDERSON FROM CAIRO

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVED IN EGYPT TODAY ON THE LAST LEG OF HIS MIDEAST PEACE-MAKING TOUR AND MET WITH SADAT TO BRIEF HIM ON HIS TALKS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS."

OTHER POINTS:

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-- MISSION ENDING WITHOUT FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE VANCE SOUGHT.

-- EARLIER HE HAD FLOWN TO JORDAN AND SYRIA, BRIEFED LEADERS THERE.

-- IN TEL AVIV, GOVT SPOKESMAN SAID ISRAEL READY TO GO TO GENEVA AT ANY TIME; ITS REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH PLO WAS NOT DELAYING TACTIC.

-- ABOARD PLANE, SENIOR US OFFICIAL DENIED REPORT FROM CAIRO THAT EILTS HAD MET WITH PLO OFFICIAL.

-- NEXT STEPS ARE TALKS AT UN NEXT MONTH AND BEGIN TRIP TO US IN OCTOBER, WHEN HE WILL MEET CARTER AGAIN.

NEWSPAPERS

NY TIMES -- BERNARD GWERTZMAN FROM JERUSALEM (P-1)

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE, AT THE END OF HIS MIDEAST MISSION, SAID TODAY THAT ALTHOUGH ISRAEL AND THE ARABS SEEMED TO WANT PEACE, WIDE GAPS HAD TO BE BRIDGED BEFORE A GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD BE CONVENED."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE TOLD WEST BANK ARAB DIGNITARIES TRANSITION PERIOD

UNDER UN TRUSTEESHIP WAS MOST REASONABLE SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

-- IN PRESS CONFERENCE HE REFUSED TO ASSIGN BLAME FOR SLOW PROGRESS TOWARD MIDEAST SETTLEMENT, BUT SEEMED TO CREDIT ARABS WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY THAN ISRAELIS.

-- TALKS WITH BEGIN ENDED WITHOUT SIGN OF CONFRONTATION;  
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ANY CRISIS IN ISRAELI-AMERICAN RELATIONS APPEARED TO BE DEFERRED.

-- MEETINGS TO CONTINUE IN NY; "THESE TALKS COULD BE SIGNIFICANT OR, AS SEEMS MORE LIKELY, THEY COULD JUST KEEP THE APPEARANCE OF MOMENTUM."

-- VANCE SAID DAYAN WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE AS WELL AS PROCEDURE.

-- SAID IF PLO ACCEPTED 242, HE WOULD MEET WITH THEM IN NY, ADDED HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY SUCH CHANGE SO FAR.

-- MAIN PROBLEM WITH NY TALKS IS THAT ARAB FONMINS HAVE LITTLE LATITUDE. ALSO, ISRAELIS HAVE NOT INDICATED ANY WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF PALESTINIANS AND WITHDRAWAL.

-- VANCE AWARE OF ARAB SENSITIVITY ON QUESTION OF MEETING WITHOUT PALESTINIANS, REFUSED TO CALL NY TALKS "PROXIMITY TALKS."

-- IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SAID SOME ARAB COUNTRIES HAD SHOWN WILLINGNESS TO NARROW THE GAP, BUT SAID GAP HAD NOT NARROWED ANY FURTHER WHILE HE WAS IN ISRAEL.

FLORA LEWIS, IN SIDE ARTICLE, REPORTED FOLLOWING POINTS ON VANCE MEETING WITH WEST BANK ARABS:

-- MEETING ARRANGED BY DAYAN TOOK PLACE AT HIS HOME.

-- ONE GROUP OF MAYORS OF MAJOR TOWNS REFUSED TO COME, AND DELIVERED LETTER ADDRESSED TO US AND USSR SAYING PLO WAS  
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LEGITIMATE VOICE OF PALESTINIANS AND ASKING PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA.

-- ANOTHER GROUP ATTENDING MEETING DENIED PLO WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF WEST BANK RESIDENTS.

-- THEY ASKED FOR PRIVATE MEETING WITH VANCE, REPORTED THEY TOLD HIM THREE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS EXISTED FOR WEST BANK: INDEPENDENT STATE, UN TRUSTEESHIP, OR UNION WITH JORDAN. VANCE THEN SAID US FELT TRUSTEESHIP ARRANGEMENT MOST REASONABLE.

-- GROUP SAID HE OFFERED NO ASSURANCE OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

WASH POST -- DON OBERDORFER FROM JERUSALEM (P-1)

LEAD: "SECSTATE CYRUS VANCE ENDED 10 DAYS OF INTENSIVE TALKS IN THE MIDEAST TODAY WITHOUT ACHIEVING ANY MAJOR PROGRESS TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT. WHILE VANCE REFUSED TO CONCEDE OFFICIALLY THAT HIS MISSION HAS FAILED, A SENIOR ISRAELI ADVISER REPORTED THAT ONLY 'A VERY NARROW CHANCE' REMAINS FOR CONVENING A GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE SAID IN NEWS CONFERENCE HIS TALKS WITH BEGIN HAVE NOT NARROWED FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTIES. SAID SOME ARAB STATES HAD SHOWN MORE FLEXIBILITY THAN IN PAST REGARDING FUTURE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, BUT DID NOT SUGGEST THIS CHANGE WAS MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH.

-- KATZ REPORTED NO CHANGE IN ISRAELI OPPOSITION TO TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS ON WEST BANK OR TO PALESTINIAN ENTITY. SAID ARAB GOVERNMENTS INSIST ON PLO PARTICIPATION UNCLASSIFIED

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AT GENEVA, ADDED IF THIS PERSISTED, THERE WILL BE NO GENEVA.

-- VANCE STOPPING IN JORDAN, SYRIA AND EGYPT TODAY, BUT HAD NO PROGRESS TO REPORT. MOST THAT CAN BE EXPECTED IS COMMITMENT TO MEET AGAIN IN NY NEXT MONTH. NO ARAB-ISRAELI MEETINGS EXPECTED THERE AND THERE IS NO OPTIMISM MAJOR PROGRESS WILL RESULT.

-- VANCE SAID HE MIGHT MEET WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES IF IT ACCEPTS 242, BUT THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS PLO WILL DO THAT.

-- "FAILURE TO ACHIEVE ANY SIGN OF MIDEAST BREAKTHROUGH DESPITE EXTENSIVE PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF PRES CARTER, TWO TRIPS TO AREA BY VANCE AND MORE THAN 6 MONTHS OF EFFORT, IS ANOTHER SERIOUS FOREIGN POLICY SETBACK FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

-- BEGIN SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO CONFRONTATION, SAID VANCE  
HAD NOT ASKED ANYTHING OF ISRAEL.

-- AT HEART OF CONFLICT IS US VIEW -- NOT SHARED BY  
ISRAEL -- THAT ARABS ARE SINCERE IN WANTING PEACE.

-- REUTERS REPORTED SOVIETS HAVE ASSURED PLO USSR WOULD  
NOT ATTEND GENEVA CONFERENCE IN ABSENCE OF PLO.

BALT SUN -- HANK TREWHITT FROM JERUSALEM (P-1)

LEAD: "ISRAEL, ITS ARAB ANTAGONISTS AND THE US HAVE AGREED  
ON SYSTEM OF INDIRECT MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS THAT MIGHT  
INCLUDE PALESTINIANS. VANCE SAID YESTERDAY HE WILL BEGIN  
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SHUTTling BETWEEN ISRAELI AND ARAB FORMS IN NY NEXT  
MONTH."

OTHER POINTS:

-- WOULD INCLUDE PLO IF IT ACCEPTED 242.

-- DESPITE DIFFERENCES, VANCE AND BEGIN KEPT BITTERNESS  
OUT OF DISCUSSION. BEGIN STRESSED FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE,  
PRAISED UNSPECIFIED GREAT ACHIEVEMENT BY VANCE.

-- APPARENTLY THEY RESOLVED NONE OF OBSTACLES TO PEACE.

-- ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAVE STRONGLY OPPOSED AMERICAN  
CONTACTS WITH PLO. THEY ADMIT VANCE CAN TALK TO WHOMEVER  
HE LIKES, BUT SAID THEY WILL NEVER NEGOTIATE WITH PLO.

-- AT MINIMUM, AGREEMENT TO TALK IN NY REPRESENTS PROCE-  
DURAL PROGRESS, BUT IN MIDEAST PROCEDURE IS SUBSTANTIVE,  
AND VANCE SAID IN ANY CASE HE WOULD BE TALKING SUBSTANCE  
AS WELL AS PROCEDURE.

-- PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS BOUND US NOT TO MODIFY 242 AND TO  
GIVE ISRAEL VETO OVER NEW PARTIES AT GENEVA. RECENTLY, US  
POLICY HAS SHIFTED TOWARDS ARAB VIEWS AND BECOME MORE  
SPECIFIC, WITH CARTER SAYING US WOULD TALK WITH PLO IF IT  
ACCEPTED 242. SAUDIS TOLD VANCE CHANGE COMING IN PLO  
ATTITUDE.

-- ARAB LEADERS SLOWLY RESPONDING TO US DIPLOMATIC PRES-  
SURES, WEAKENING THEIR COMMITMENT TO PLO, AGREEING TO TRUE  
PEACE WITH ISRAEL.

ISRAELIS FINDING IT "INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT" TO RESIST  
US PRESSURE FOR COMPROMISE.

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-- INDIRECT NEGOTIATION APPROACH OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY, PROVIDES FORUM FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION OF ISSUES.

-- RESEMBLES PROXIMITY TALKS ARRANGED BY RALPH BUNCHE IN 1949, THOUGH VANCE REFUSED TO USE THAT TERM.

WSJ -- ROBERT KEATLEY FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "CHANCES OF A MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR - NEVER BRIGHT - SEEM DIMMER THAN EVER AS SECSTATE VANCE CONCLUDES A SIX-NATION TOUR OF THE REGION TODAY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- EFFORT AT CLOSING GAP HAS HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS, WITH SUBSTANTIAL, PERHAPS IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES REMAINING ON KEY ISSUES.

-- CHANCES OF SUCCESS AT UNGA MEETINGS "PROBLEMATICAL."

-- LIKE MIDEAST, CHANCES OF NEGOTIATING RHODESIAN PEACE AGREEMENT "UNCERTAIN AT BEST."

-- DESPITE EXPRESSED HOPES OF GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR, VANCE MIGHTN'T REALLY BE EXPECTING IT BECAUSE OF UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS OF PLO ATTENDANCE, RETURN OF CAPTURED TERRITORY, AND MUTUAL DISTRUST.

-- AT UNGA MEETINGS, US AND ARABS WANT SPECIFIC NEGOTIATING AGENDA; ISRAEL REJECTS IDEA, DESIRING OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR AGREEMENTS.

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-- IF IMPASSE REMAINS, US MIGHT DRAFT ITS OWN SETTLEMENT AND ANNOUNCE IT PUBLICLY. PRESUMABLY, WOULD BE CLOSE TO ARAB DEMANDS. US WOULDN'T TRY TO IMPOSE THOSE TERMS, BUT DEPEND ON WORLD OPINION, US PRESSURE AND POSSIBLE ISRAELI DISSATISFACTION WITH STATUS QUO.

CSM -- DANIEL SOUTHERLAND FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "AT FIRST GLANCE, SECSTATE VANCE APPEARS TO BE ENDING HIS MIDEAST PEACE MISSION ON A NOTE OF FAILURE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- BUT CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF STATEMENTS FROM SECSTATE AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS OFFERS "SOME HOPE OF PROGRESS" DURING UNGA.

-- VANCE HELD OUT POSSIBILITY THAT PLO OBSERVER WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO UNGA TALKS IF PLO ACCEPTED 242. ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID THEY WOULD "REGRET VERY MUCH" SUCH PARTICIPATION, BUT DIDN'T REJECT IDEA.

-- COMPARISON TO RALPH BUNCHE'S "PROXIMITY" TALKS OF 1948, THOUGH VANCE (APPARENTLY BECAUSE ISRAELIS LAST MONTH PROPOSED SUCH TALKS) REFUSED TO CALL THEM BY THAT NAME.

-- ASIDE FROM UNGA HOPES, VANCE PAINTED "EXCEEDINGLY BLEAK PICTURE."

-- ONE OF TRIP'S MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN FORCING PARTIES TO COME UP WITH MORE DETAILED POSITIONS ON ALL ISSUES THAN FORMERLY.

-- US STRATEGY IS TO ENCOURAGE ALL PARTIES TO DEPART FROM PAST EMOTIONAL STATEMENTS, ENTER DOWN-TO-EARTH, SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS. BUT VANCE "RAN INTO STONEWALL" WITH ISRAELIS UNCLASSIFIED

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ON MANY ISSUES, LEAVING IMPRESSION US POSITION CLOSER TO ARABS'.

-- ISRAEL NOW APPEARS IN DANGER OF BECOMG DIPLOMATICALLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY ISOLATED UNLESS IT SHOWS GREATER FLEXIBILITY. MUCH DEPENDS ON NEXT FEW WEEKS' MOVES BY PLO.

LA TIMES -- OZZIE JOHNSTON FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE WOULD UP TWO DAYS OF INTENSIVE TALKS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS WEDNESDAY WITH AN ADMISSION THAT HE WON NO SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSION OF ANY KIND RELATING TO MIDEAST PEACE SETTLEMENT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- THAT IMPLICATION DIFFERENT FROM VANCE STATEMENTS WEDNESDAY THAT SUCH FLEXIBILITY AS HE HAD FOUND WAS ON PART OF ARABS.

-- JUDGING FROM US AND ISRAELI ACCOUNTS, VANCE AND BEGIN APPEAR TO HAVE AGREED ONLY ON VANCE-DAYAN MEETING NEXT MONTH.

-- KATZ TRIED TO LEAVE IMPRESSION TALKS AT UN WOULD BE PROXIMITY TALKS, BUT US OFFICIALS ADVISED AGAINST THAT INTERPRETATION.

-- BEGIN NEVER DEFINED "GREAT ACHIEVEMENT" OF VANCE WHICH HE MENTIONED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, BUT KATZ TRIED TO LEAVE IMPRESSION NY TALKS WERE WHAT HE REFERRED TO.

-- DESPITE PUBLIC REFUSAL OF BEGIN GOVT TO DISCUSS SUB-UNCLASSIFIED

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STANTIVE MATTERS, IT WAS CLEAR THAT VANCE'S DETAILED SET OF PRINCIPLES, INCLUDING POINTS OF SUBSTANCE, HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN FULL.

-- BEGIN GOVT SEEMS UNBOTHERED BY GULF BETWEEN US AND ISRAELI VIEWS. SEEM CONFIDENT THEIR "SEMI-BIBLICAL VIEW OF ISRAEL'S DESTINY" IS JUST AND BELIEVE THEIR SUPPORT IN CONGRESS AND AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY GROWING STRONGER.

-- APPEARS THAT OUTSIDE PAGES OF ISRAELI PRESS, NO CONFRONTATION OCCURRED. THERE ARE REAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND ISRAELI VIEWS, PARTICULARLY ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION. VANCE SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF PLO IN NY IF IT ACCEPTED RES 242, BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO SIGN OF SUCH ACCEPTANCE. ISRAELIS REFUSE ANY NEGOTIATION WITH PLO.

CHICTRIB -- JOHN MACLEAN FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE ACKNOWLEDGED WEDNESDAY HIS MIDEAST MISSION HAS FAILED TO ACHIEVE ITS MAIN GOAL OF A MOVE TOWARD AN EARLY RECONVENING OF A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- IN PRESS CONFERENCE, VANCE SAID HE EXPECTS TO TALK WITH ARAB AND ISRAELI DIPLOMATS AT UNGA, LEAVING OPEN POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN US AND PLO.

-- ISRAELIS HAVE RAISED NO OBJECTION TO SUCH A MEETING WITH PLO, BUT THAT MAY BE AN OVERSIGHT.

-- VANCE SAID MISSION HAD BROUGHT ARAB CONCESSIONS, BUT CITED NONE BY ISRAELIS.

-- BEGIN DENIED CONFRONTATION WITH US OVER PLO, DENIED UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESSURE FROM US.

-- BEGIN AND VANCE INDICATED GENEVA CONFERENCE WON'T BE IN OCTOBER AND ADMITTED "VAST FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS REMAIN.



-- VANCE SAID "I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MADE MORE PROGRESS,"  
ADDING HIS VISIT HAD BEEN USEFUL IN DRAWING OUT BOTH SIDES  
ON THEIR VIEWS.

-- ALSO SAID HE'D HEARD NOTHING TO INDICATE PLO HAD MET  
PRES CARTER'S CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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